

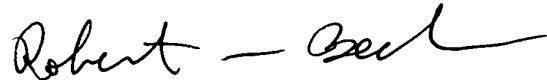
REMARKS

Claims 23-43 are pending in the application.

Appropriate headings have been added to the specification, and claims from the literal translation have been replaced by claims drafted in conformity with U.S. Patent practice. An abstract has also been added to the specification.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Becker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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* For Examiners Reference

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 22: Cancelled

23. A fastening arrangement for a safety belt in a vehicle, comprising:

a holder (10) for securement to said vehicle, wherein said holder is provided with a T-shaped head (16) having arms (17) that extend laterally relative to a longitudinal axis of said holder

(10);

a connector (11) that is moveably disposed, against spring action, on said holder (10), wherein said connector (11) is adapted to be connected to a belt buckle (12) or a belt strap loop (60), and wherein said connector is provided with abutments (19) positioned opposite said arms (17) of said holder (10);

a magnet (23) and a magnetic field sensor (28) disposed on said holder (10) and said connector (11), wherein a relative movement between said magnet and said magnetic field sensor caused by displacement of said connector (11) relative to said holder (10) which displacement is effected by tension acting on said safety belt, is converted into a signal that corresponds to the acting belt force;

first springs (21) provided on outer longitudinal sides of said holder (10) and said connector (11), wherein respective ones of said first springs extend between each of said arms (17) of said holder (10) and an oppositely disposed abutment (19) of said connector (11), and wherein said first springs (21) counteract a tension force of said safety belt or said belt buckle (12), and

a compensation spring (50) that is disposed between, and is respectively supported on, said holder (10) and said connector (11), wherein said compensation spring, without a tension

force acting on said connector (11), prestresses said connector relative to said holder (10) against nearly relaxed ones of said first springs (21) with a spring force that is set low.

24. A fastening arrangement according to claim 23, wherein said connector (11) comprises two plates (18) that are disposed parallel to one another and enclose between them said T-shaped heads (16) of said holder (10), including said arms (17) of said holder, and wherein said abutments (19) on said connector (11) for said first springs (21) are formed by connecting flanges that are disposed perpendicular to planes of said plates (18).

25. A fastening arrangement according to claim 23, wherein said first springs (21) are respective compression springs that are respectively supported between said arms (17) of said holder (10) and said abutments (19) of said connector (11).

26. A fastening arrangement according to claim 25, wherein said connector (11) is provided with a bearing surface (11a) against which said T-shaped head (16) of said holder (10) is supported under the action of said first springs (21).

27. A fastening arrangement according to claim 25, wherein guide members (20) are formed on said arm (17) of said T-shaped head (16) and on said abutments (19) of said connector (11), and wherein said guide members (20) project in a direction of extension of said compression springs (21).

28. A fastening arrangement according to claim 23, wherein said connector (11) is connected via a connecting device (15) with a buckle housing (14) of said belt buckle (12).

29. A fastening arrangement according to claim 23, wherein said connector (11) is a monolithic component of a buckle housing (14) of said belt buckle (12).

30. A fastening arrangement according to claim 29, wherein said buckle housing (14) has a U-shaped configuration and includes a base plate (40) and laterally projecting U-legs (41), wherein to form said monolithic connector (11) said base plate (40) of said buckle housing (14) is provided with an axial extension portion (42), and wherein said abutments (19) are formed on an

end of said base plate 40 accompanied by the formation of a space 43 between said abutments and said U-legs 41.

31. A fastening arrangement according to claim 30, wherein said arms 17 of said holder 10, including said first springs 21, are disposed in said space 43.

32. A fastening arrangement according to claim 30, wherein said holder 10 is secured to said base plate 40 of said buckle housing 14 so as to be relatively moveable thereto.

33. A fastening arrangement according to claim 23, wherein said holder 10 is embodied as a rigid component or as a flexible cable holder.

34. A fastening arrangement according to claim 24, wherein said magnet 23 comprises a bar magnet that is oriented in a longitudinal direction of said holder 10 and said connector 11, and is mounted on an inner side of said connector 11 that faces said T-shaped head 16 of said holder 10 and wherein said magnet field sensor 28 is mounted on said T-shaped head 16 of said holder 10 such that a longitudinal axis of said magnetic field sensor is disposed at right angles to a longitudinal axis of said bar magnet 23 and within a magnetic field of said bar magnet.

35. A fastening arrangement according to claim 34, wherein said bar magnet 23 is mounted on one of said plates 18 of said connector 11, and wherein a cutout 22 that spans said magnetic field sensor 28 is formed on the other plate 18.

36. A fastening arrangement according to claim 23, wherein said magnet 23 comprises a bar magnet that is oriented in a longitudinal direction of said holder 10 and said connector 11 and is rotatably mounted on said connector, wherein said magnet field sensor 28 which detects a change in position of said bar magnet 23 is disposed on said connector 11, and wherein during displacement of said holder 10 relative to said connector 11, said holder deflects said bar magnet 23 out of its orientation in the longitudinal direction of said connector.

37. A fastening arrangement according to claim 36, wherein said T-shaped head 16 of said holder 10 engages against said rotatably mounted bar magnet 23 via an articulated lever arm 33, 34.

38. A fastening arrangement according to claim 30, wherein said magnetic field sensor 28 is mounted on said holder 10, wherein said magnet is in the form of a bridge 44 that spans the base plate 40 of said buckle housing 14 and is fixed into position on said lateral U-legs 41 of said buckle housing, and wherein said bridge 44 is disposed in such a way that said magnetic field sensor 28 is disposed below said magnet bridge.

39. A fastening arrangement according to claim 38, wherein said magnetic field sensor 28 is fixed in position on said holder 10 via a sealing compound that encases it.

40. A fastening arrangement according to claim 23, wherein said magnetic field sensor 28 is disposed within a magnetic field of said magnet 23 in such a way that a change of the magnetic field connected with a change in position of said magnet is received by said magnetic field sensor 28.

41. A fastening arrangement according to claim 40, wherein said compensation spring 50 is embodied as a pre-bent flat spring having a central portion 51 that is fixed in position against said connector 11, wherein laterally outer ends 52 of said compensation spring 50 act upon said holder 10 with pre-stress, and wherein upon a relative displacement of said connector 11 relative to said holder 10, said outer ends 52 of said compensation spring 50 come free from said holder 10 due to tension force that engages said connector.

42. A fastening arrangement according to claim 23, wherein said holder 10 has a two-part configuration, including a holding portion 10a that is to be secured to said vehicle, and a fitting portion 10b that is provided with said arms 17 and cooperates with said connector 11.

43. A fastening arrangement according to claim 23, wherein a belt strap loop 60 directly engages said connector 11.